THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Director of Institute of Biotechnology, University of Cambridge, U.K., only said that pursuing Biotechnology is the best option at the post graduate level and that too by those who have fundamental knowledge in physics, chemistry, biology or bio-chemistry.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has also focused on producing high quality postgraduates by supporting M.Sc/M.Tech. teaching programmes with idea of interfacing and moving towards knowledge based industry as in the case of Cambridge Institute.

Innovations and Research Technology

2831. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new innovations and research technology invented by scientist could not reach the grass root level, particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken by his Ministry for adopting them for developing rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The government has been proactively engaged in developing, adopting and disseminating people friendly technologies for rural areas with the involvement of NGOs, academic institutions, local bodies and community. Various government departments and agencies such as Department of Science & Technology, Depatment of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, CAPART, have taken many initiatives for developing rural areas. Women Technology Parks (WTP), Rural Technology Parks (RTP), Rural Technology Centres (RTC) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) have been set up in rural areas for developing and disseminating location specific science and technology based solutions to local problems. Innovative projects involving development

of field level technological interventions, which are capable of making a difference to rural life, are supported on regular basis by the government. Some examples of such interventions are: (1) development of rural technologies like solar drier for fish, portable cookers using briquettes made of biomass, modified multipurpose water mills, small biogas plants, etc. (2) during the last one year, the KVKs (in 540 rural districts) have conducted 1318 on-farm trials to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems, organized 33,942 frontline demonstrations to establish its production potential on farmers' fields, and 37,963 training programmes with participation of 8.4 lakh farmers and 84,925 extension personnel. The KVKs produced 5322.5 tonnes of seeds and 52.2 lakh planting material, besides 233.2 lakh livestock strain/ fingerlings for its availability to the farmers, and (3) 670 units of ultrafiltration membrane based water filters, based on the technology developed by a CSIR laboratory, have been installed in different rural areas for providing virus-free clean drinking water.

Proposal for revolutionary advances in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

2832. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any detailed plan to take advantage of the revolutionary advances being made in nanoscience and nanotechnology;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific R&D projects drawn up in nanotechnology and investments proposed to be made in nanoscience and nanotechnology; and

(c) the details of similar investments already made/being contemplated in some other countries like the U.S.A., European Unions, China etc.?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various Ministries/Departments of Government of India such as the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Defence Research and Development Organizatoin (DRDO), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have been supporting R&D in Nano Science and Technology. DST launched